date till the Tea Trading Corporation of India finalises the rehabilitation of workers and disposal of the gardens.

(c) DGHC was informed that cases filed by the erstwhile owners/ private parties with regard to these gardens are pending in the Calcutta High Court and therefore, the matter is *sub-judice*. Accordingly, the future of these gardens would depend on the outcome of the court judgement.

Collaboration of India and Pakistan to protect the textile sector from E. U.

2462. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have decided to Collaborate to protect their interests in the textile sector against the European Union;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out against the moves by the European Union; and

(c) the mechanism evolved to protect the interests of textile manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no consideration at present regarding collaboration between India and Pakistan to protect their interests in the textile sector against the European Union. However, as part of the ongoing work programme in the World Trade Organisation on resolution of implementation related issues, concerns have been expressed by India along with other developing countries including Pakistan regarding the lack of liberalisation in international trade in the textile sector.

J WG on Indo-China trade

2463. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after signing a pact on WTO India and China also signed a MoU for setting up a Joint Working Group (JWG) to increase cooperation in metallurgical sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Sixth Session of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology held in Beijing on February 21-22, 2000, a bilateral agreement on China's accession to WTO was signed. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed for setting up a Working Group on Ferrous Metallurgy. The MoU signed *inter alia* provides for supporting and encouraging steel enterprises and companies in mutual trade and cooperation, promoting the increase in export of iron ore and manganese ore from India to China, promoting the increase in export of coking coal and metallurgical coke from China to India, promoting the exchange and transfer of improved iron and steel making technologies, considering the possibility of Chinese participation in the modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Company, and exchange of information and literature at Working Group meetings.

Import of sensitive items

2464. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring certain sensitive items of imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind monitoring such imports;

(c) the trends in the imports of sensitive items during the last three months;

(d) whether there is a decline in imports of these items; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) to (e) The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Standing Group consisting of Commerce Secretary, Revenue Secretary, Secretary (SSI & ARI), Secretary (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), Secretary (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and Direcjor General of Foreign Trade. This group has been formed for tracking, collating and analyzing import data of 300 sensitive items. These items include, milk and milk powders, fruits and vegetables, poultry products, tea and coffee, spices, food grains, edible oils, alcoholic beverages, rubber, cotton and silk, marble and granite, automobiles, umbrella, locks, toys, writing instruments among others. The Standing Group has been set up to identify any surge in imports of these sensitive items and to see if any intervention is called for.